factors, including the export schemes. (During the last Four years the total exports value exceeds Rs. 5,00,000 crores).

(c) and (d) There has been a regular mechanism for monitoring export obligation which the exporters, operating under different export schemes, are subjected to. This indirectly takes care of monitoring of the earnings of foreign exchange under these schemes. Prior to 1.4.95, the requirement for submission of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC) evidencing realisation of export proceeds was provided for under some of the export scheme like the advance licencing scheme, but the same was discontinued with effect from 1.4.95 in consideration of the fact that the Reserve Bank of India was already monitoring the realisation of export proceeds and it was felt that there was no need to duplicate this work. However, in the light of the observations made by the Public Accounts Committee in its 24th Report relating to Advance Licencing Scheme, the Government has now decided to reintroduce the requirement of production of BRC before redeeming advance licences w.e.f. 13.4.98. Likewise, in the case of Duty Exemption Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme, a condition has been put that the DEPB credit would be allowed to be transferred only after the proof of realisation of export proceeds is furnished by the exporter.

Consolidation of Export Promotion Scheme

2147. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are shaping all their present export promotion schemes into "one grand export promotion scheme" and also promises "Credit at attractive interest rates' and free port to boot" as reported in the Economic Times, dated the 19th June, 1998; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating Government's proposed export targets during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) In response to the persistent demand of the exporters to provide a single attractive export scheme, frtee from procedural hassles, the Ministry of Commerce is presently studying the feasibility of such a scheme, which would also be compatible with WTO parameters.

(b) The details of the new scheme, shall be finalised in consultation with other concerned Ministries of the Government of India at the appropriate time.

Import of wheat from Australia

2148. SHRI M. VENKAIAHNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Probe into 950 crore wheat deal ordered" that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 20th May, 1998;

(b) whether any progress has been made in this regard;

(c) the quantum of wheat which was to be imported from Australia and the contracted price thereof;

(d) the availability of wheat in the stock of Government and the requirement of wheat of the country when the deal was struck with Australia; and

(e) the circumstances which compelled Government to import the wheat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government have noted the New-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 20th May, 1998. Captioned "Probe into 950 crore wheat deal ordered".